

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

January 9, 2009 to February 3, 2009

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing proposed federal activities to determine if they are consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:**

DOD/U.S. Navy

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of the Navy has submitted a federal consistency determination for Atlantic fleet training, research, development, testing and evaluation (RDTE) activities in the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Range Complex off the Virginia Coast. The proposed actions are associated with Navy Atlantic Fleet RDTE activities and associated range capabilities enhancements, including infrastructure improvements. The components of the VACAPES Range Complex include 28,672 square nautical miles (nm<sup>2</sup>) of special use area (SUA) warning area; 27,661 nm<sup>2</sup> of offshore surface and subsurface operating area (OPAREA); and 18,092 nm<sup>2</sup> of deep ocean area greater than 100 fathoms (600 feet). The geographic scope includes the airspace, seaspace, and undersea space of the VACAPES Range Complex. The VACAPES area does not include any dry land. However, it does include the area from the mean high tide line east (seaward) to the 3-nautical-mile (nm) boundary of Virginia waters. This 3-nm state boundary also serves as the western boundary of the VACAPES OPAREA. The VACAPES Study Area also includes 420 nm<sup>2</sup> of the lower Chesapeake Bay, where proposed Mine Warfare (MIW) training would occur.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

**CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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